

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Yasushige NAKAMURA, et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**  
**(Continuation of PCT/JP00/01678)**

Filed: **November 14, 2001**

For: **ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC TONER AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: November 14, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 9 and 19 as follows:

9. (Amended) An image forming method according to claim 6, wherein the energy of the flashtube is within a range from 0.5 to 3.0 J/cm<sup>2</sup> and the duration of the flash is within a range from 500 to 3,000 μs in the flash fixing step.

19. (Amended) A method of forming an image by means of an electrophotographic process which comprises the steps of forming an electrostatic latent image by image exposure, visualizing the electrostatic latent image by development, transferring the visualized image onto the recording medium and fixing the transferred image, wherein

a developing agent containing the electrophotographic toner of claim 10 is used in the step of developing the electrostatic latent image; and

a flash fixing system is used as the toner fixing system in the step of fixing the toner image after transferring the toner image, which has been visualized by the use of the developing agent, onto the recording medium.

**REMARKS**

The above amendment to the claims has been made to correct the multiple dependency of the claims and to place the application in better condition for examination.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 9 and 19 have been amended.

9. An image forming method according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~, wherein the energy of the flashtube is within a range from 0.5 to 3.0 J/cm<sup>2</sup> and the duration of the flash is within a range from 500 to 3,000 μs in the flash fixing step.

19. A method of forming an image by means of an electrophotographic process which comprises the steps of forming an electrostatic latent image by image exposure, visualizing the electrostatic latent image by development, transferring the visualized image onto the recording medium and fixing the transferred image, wherein

a developing agent containing the electrophotographic toner of claim 10 ~~any one of claims 10 to 18~~ is used in the step of developing the electrostatic latent image; and

a flash fixing system is used as the toner fixing system in the step of fixing the toner image after transferring the toner image, which has been visualized by the use of the developing agent, onto the recording medium.